

PATENT  
Serial No. 10/594,489  
Amendment in Reply to Office Action of November 12, 2009

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the current Abstract in its entirety and substitute therefor the enclosed  
New Abstract.

NEW ABSTRACT

A method for operating a boiler of a device, such as a coffee maker, includes initial steps aimed at determining whether the boiler is filled with water or not. In the process, the insight that the thermal behavior of an empty boiler differs from the thermal behavior of a filled boiler is applied. A heating element of the boiler is used to generate heat during a predetermined length of time. As a result, the temperature inside the boiler starts to change. At a certain point, the temperature change over a time interval having a predetermined length is measured. Subsequently, the measured temperature change is compared with a reference temperature change. In case the measured temperature change is larger than the reference temperature change, it is concluded that the boiler is empty and needs to be filled before the heating element is activated again.